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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /142 W
---------- 069178
R 270630Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5181
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13557

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, VS
SUBJECT: GVN DECISION TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL

1. ON JULY 27 LUONG NHI KY, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, INFORMED MINPOL THAT AFTER DISCUSSIONS IN THE PRESIDENCY THIEU HAD DECIDED THAT THE GVN HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL FOLLOWING SENEGAL'S EXTENSION OF RECOGNITION TO THE PRG. KY SAID THAT THE GVN FELT THAT ANY MIDDLE COURSE, SUCH AS DOWNGRADING THE DAKAR EMBASSY, WOULD BE DANGEROUS AS THIS COULD LEAD TO A WAVE OF DECISIONS BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE THE PRG. THERE WAS, HE SAID, A CLEAR PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT STAKE, I.E., THAT THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE GOVERNMENT IN THE TERRITORY OF ONE NATION.

2. KY THEN WENT OVER THE MAIN POINTS IN THE JULY 12 NOTE TO THE GOS. HE TOOK PARTICULAR PAINS TO DEMOLISH SENEGAL'S ARGUMENT THAT SINCE THE PRG HAD SIGNED THE PARIS AGREEMENT IT WAS A SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT. THE PRG IS NOT A GOVERNMENT, DOES NOT HAVE TERRITORY, AND HAS ONLY TROOPS AND SMALL NUMBERS OF ADHERENTS
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IN SOUTH VIETNAM SCATTERED IN SEPARATE LOCATIONS. (HERE HE DREW A

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CONTRAST BETWEEN THE SITUATION OF TAIWAN AND THAT OF THE PRG.)
THE GVN IS THE ONLY GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND WILL REMAIN
SO UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED FOLLOWING GENERAL ELECTIONS AS
PROVIDED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT. KY DECLARED THAT FOR A FOREIGN
COUNTRY TO RECOGNIZE THE PRG IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONSITITUTED
UNACCEPTABLE INTERVENTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. KY NOTED THAT THE GVN HAD DONE EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO
PERSUADE SENEGAL TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION, INCLUDING
APPROACHES IN PARIS AND LONDON AND THE SENDING OF PRIVATE
EMISSARIES TO DAKAR. THESE EFFORTS HAD FAILED AND THERE WAS NOW
NOTHING FOR IT BUT TO BREAK OFF RELATIONS.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPECTS THIS DECISION TO BE MADE
PUBLIC IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
MARTIN

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